

Mill Valley resort firm completes Cabo deal

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Mill Valley-based Auberge Resorts and its investment partners have completed their purchase of Esperanza in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

The 17-acre resort was purchased by Auberge along with the Levy Organization, a real estate development company based in Chicago, and Flynn Properties, a property development firm in San Francisco.

The property, which sits on the Sea of Cortez, has 56 hotel suites, a restaurant, a spa and 60-villa private residence club.

"We've been intimately involved with every detail of Esperanza since before it was on the drawing table, and it is one of the jewels in our resort portfolio," said Mark Harmon, chief executive of Auberge.

Auberge, based on Redwood Highway, also operates the Auberge du Soleil in Napa Valley, the Calistoga Ranch in Napa Valley and The Inn at Palmetto Bluff in South Carolina.

Local employers lauded for commuter policies

Three Marin County employers have been included in the fifth annual list of the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters.

The list - prepared by the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition - includes 179 employers and four districts in the Bay Area that offer "superior commuter benefits" to their employees. Such benefits include employer-provided transit passes, vanpool subsidies, bike commuter facilities, onsite day care and telecommuting programs.

Marin's honorees include the County of Marin, Autodesk Inc. in San Rafael and ZebraWear in Mill Valley.

The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition includes the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Bay Area Council, 511, 511 Contra Costa, the Northern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation, the Northern California Human Resources Association, the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, Solano Napa Commuter Information and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Peet's Coffee and Tea announces price hike

Peet's Coffee and Tea is raising its prices effective Nov. 1.

Citing rising coffee costs and other expenses, the company is increasing the price of most coffee drinks 5 cents to 10 cents per cup.

The prices of its baked goods will be increased 5 cents to 20 cents per item.

The Berkeley-based coffee company operates six Marin stores in Marin, in Corte Madera, Greenbrae, Mill Valley, Novato, San Anselmo and San Rafael. Peet's operates 123 retail locations, mostly in California.